

Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2011

Members

Stephen	Brechbiel
Melanie	Hester
Susan	Humbert
Nicole	Jimerson
Sheila	Knapp
Shary	Maskel
Ann	Maxwell
Teresa	Mebane
Linda	Nelson
Lisa	Phillips
Jana	Plemmons
Jill	Scercy
Vicki	Simmons
Curtis	Garland
Deborah	Whitfield

Members

Bob	Atwater
Ester	High
Sally	Hunter
Cathy	Kea
Felix	Keyes
Kathy	Rhoades
Joe	Sutton
Laura	Wiley
Cynthia	Wilson

For Gloria Upperman

Visitors

Nellie	Aspel
Belinda	Cauthen
Cynthia	Daniels-Hall
Eric	Hall
Bill	Hussey
Leigh	Mobley
Brenda	Monforti
Pam	Pipes
Brian	Tipton
Julia	Whitfield
Aimee	Zavala

DPI Staff / Presenters

Tish	Bynum
Mary	Jarrett
Freda	Lee
Kate	Neale
Mary	Watson
Ira	Wolfe

- Anecdotal data shared indicates students are benefiting greatly from the opportunity to have co-teachers providing their instruction and feel less stigmatized about their participation in the special education program.
- Students are learning to use 21st century technology and parents have indicated that students have developed friendships with classmates and communicate outside of class via technology.
- NCVPS core content online teachers received training in Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and are providing remediation and differentiation as needed.
- Co-teachers document daily communication and joint planning.
- Local school systems are fulfilling the “highly qualified” mandate required by No Child Left Behind.

Concerns:

- Misconceptions held by some across the state that the new blended OCS/NCVPS courses are designed and delivered in the same fashion as traditional NCVPS classes, when they are not.
- Students participating in the OCS Algebra, Biology and English classes must take the standard EOCs, with accommodations because the new high school EXTEND II Tests are still in development. There are concerns about the outcome of the testing relative to student stress, passing rate, and implications for teacher evaluations.
- Some EC Directors do not want to do away with curricular avenues that produce a more focused and functional way for students to learn. They believe LEAs should be focusing on preparing students to live independently and learning the skills necessary to maintain a job.
- There is a need for more general education core content teachers to be trained to teach in the OCS/NCVPS blended classrooms.
- The cost of participating in the blended OCS/NCVPS courses is prohibitive for school systems which have large numbers of students participating in their OCS program. The cost is based on a complicated formula that ranges from \$400 to \$600 per student/per course.
- Parents do not fully understand all the post-school ramifications of participation in the Future Ready Occupational Course of Study rather than the standard Future Ready Core. For example, OCS course requirements do not prepare students for entry into a four year college.

Actions:

- Council members as a group would like to prepare a letter to send to their representatives expressing their concern about testing concerns/requirements for students with disabilities. Mary Watson will obtain the names of congressional members serving on the committee for the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (formerly referred to as NCLB).

designate one of the directors of the residential schools to serve as superintendent for the residential schools.

- The 61st Conference on Exceptional Children is October 31 – November 3, 2011 in Greensboro.
- Summer Institutes are occurring this summer, mainly June and July.

Thank you for your time on the Council. Your input is very valuable.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.